

The Bi-Monthly Broadcast

With a new year comes new beginnings and opportunities so it's fitting that a new group of contractors with the Healthy Montana Teen Parent Program (HMTPP) have been selected. With new opportunities comes change, and for the next three and a half years, the HMTPP will support six programs (down from 14) across the state, both old and new to the program (see page 2 for more details). I'm also providing an update on a number of things throughout this newsletter; if you have questions or concerns, please be in touch!

For those of you new to the HMTPP, I'll introduce the program and myself. The program is housed in the Early Childhood Services Bureau of the Human and Community Services Division and I am the Healthy Montana Teen Parent Coordinator. The program first received funding from the Pregnancy Assistance Fund from 2010—2013 and we were just refunded in August 2013 through July 2017, though at a reduced rate. The program has a priority focus of serving American Indian youth.

After graduating from Temple University in Philadelphia in 2004, I moved to Montana to be an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, and in 2011, received my Master's in Health Promotion and Certificate of Public Health from the University of Montana. My previous work has focused on poverty, HIV prevention, sexual and domestic violence, and economic advocacy. I enjoy the opportunity to learn from all of the contracted programs and to be a conduit for programs across the state. In addition to my work with the HMTPP, I am also the Co-Chair of the Family Support Committee of the statewide Best Beginnings Advisory Council and the Co-Chair of the Great Beginnings, Great Families Conference Planning Committee.

Moving forward, I will be setting up a two day meeting for everyone to come together shortly to connect with one another and also to provide training. I have some training topics identified, but if there is a topic you'd like to see included please let me know. I'll also be setting up regular, ongoing times to connect by phone and will be visiting each of your programs before the grant year is up at the end of July.

Please feel free to reach me with any questions, ideas, and concerns. I value your input and try to incorporate your feedback as possible. My email address is khart2@mt.gov (make sure you include the "2" or else it goes to someone at the Department of Corrections!) and my phone number is (406) 329-1537.

I am looking forward to continue our work over the next three and a half years to support pregnant and parenting teens and their children across the state. Thank you for all that you do to support families!

~ Kelly Hart, Healthy Montana Teen Parent Coordinator

Introduction to the Healthy Montana Teen Parent Program Contractors

With the next round of funding awarded, I want to congratulate all of the programs who were awarded contracts from the competitive RFP process:

- **Blackfeet Manpower Teen Parenting and Pregnancy Coalition**, serving the Blackfeet Reservation
- **Flathead City-County Health Department**, serving Flathead County
- **Hardin High School**, serving the Hardin/Crow Agency area
- **Raven Feathers Consulting**, serving the Northern Cheyenne Reservation
- **Thrive**, serving the Gallatin Valley including Bozeman, Belgrade, Three Forks, Manhattan, Gallatin Gateway, Willow Creek and surrounding areas

- **Women's Opportunity and Resource Development (WORD)**, serving Missoula County

Among the group are return contractors: Blackfeet Manpower, Flathead City-County Health Department, and WORD. There are also programs returning under new contracts. As part of the Partnership Project to Support Families, Thrive will continue the work that was previously contracted with the Gallatin City-County Health Department. The Sacred Blessings Project which was contracted through the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Schools will now be overseen by Raven Feathers Consulting. And brand new to the program is Hardin High School.

It is exciting to see a variety of programs offering services such as home visiting, parent education, case management, educational advocacy and credit recovery, child care, father advocacy and support, job training and support, along with breastfeeding education and counseling.

Through the coming months, you'll have the opportunity to learn more about each of these programs and to connect via in-person meetings and conference calls. It is my hope that all of the programs will learn from and support one another with their experiences and expertise.



New Program Partners

In addition to new contracts, the Healthy Montana Teen Parent Program is also exploring new partnerships to provide services and trainings. The following programs will assist by:

Healthy Mothers, Health Babies: Training on the Period of PURPLE Crying, outreach on Text4Baby, and breastfeeding education and training and also providing Safe Sleep for Baby crib packages.

Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence—Training on healthy adolescent relationships.

Montana GEAR UP— Supporting the encouragement of postsecondary education for pregnant and parenting teens, in addition to efforts to encourage use of the Montana Digital Academy.

Montana Department of Labor and Industry Workforce Investment Act Youth Program— Will connect their contractors with our contractors as appropriate and available to provide education and job training support to program participants.

National Native Children's Trauma Center: Training on Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma informed care.

Program Evaluation and Data Collection

Evaluation of the Healthy Montana Teen Parent Program has been ongoing since the start of the program in 2011. Montana KIDS COUNT of the University of Montana provides evaluation services including analysis of the data provided in contractor reports, interviews and site visits with each of the programs, and production of a final annual report.

Thale Dillon is the primary contact at Montana KIDS COUNT who works behind the scenes to analyze data and pull everything together in a report. Pearl Yellowman travels the state to visit all of the program sites and conduct interviews with key staff. Together, Pearl and Thale gather the big picture across the state and determine what is working well, what needs improvements, and lessons learned.

Two reports have been completed for the previous grant years; if you are interested in receiving a copy of either one or both, please let me know.

While the evaluation will continue as before, the data collection pro-

cess and reporting will be changing. Each program is required to submit both a hard copy with a signed cover sheet along with an electronic version. Because your reports are part of the project monitoring plan, this change has been implemented to formalize the reports that are submitted. These reports serve as documentation to support your submitted invoices.

Another big change to the reporting process is that each report submitted to the Healthy Montana Teen Parent Program is also required to go to the Office of Adolescent Health. As such, you may be asked to make changes or include additional information to your reports if data is missing or sections are not completed. Further, it will be important not to provide confidential information or to include a story of success that your program does not give permission to share.

During the previous funding opportunity, the program relied on the use of Excel spreadsheets to collect and report data with the quarterly reports. New this year

will be the addition of an online data collection software which will collect data specific to the data indicators identified by the Office of Adolescent Health and the Healthy Montana Teen Parent Program. The data software in development for the long term will be the same that is currently used by programs providing home visiting services through the Maternal and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program of DPHHS. While the software is being modified for use by the software developers, a temporary online system is being set up to collect data. Training on both systems will be provided to assist with data collection.

Using an online data software collection system will provide us with more accurate and consistent data among all of the programs. It will also allow us to remotely see the data being collected and identify areas for technical assistance.

Further instruction will be coming regarding the program reports; please review it carefully. And of course, contact me with any questions or concerns.



Thinking about Sustainability

Even though your funding is available through July 2017, the end of your current funds will be here before you know it. It is never too early to start thinking about how you will sustain your program and the earlier planning begins, the better. Each of you addressed sustainability in your RFP proposal, so you are already thinking about it. We will send sustainability resources as they become available. In fact, in March, the Office of Adolescent Health is hosting a workshop for PAF Project Directors to attend to begin working on sustainability at the state level. Those resources will be shared with all of the contractors. In the meantime, the Office of Adolescent Health has shared a number of resources on its website which can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

*Have training opportunities to share? Send them to Khart2@mt.gov *

March

Nursing Mama MT—Breastfeeding and BFAR

March 24, 2014

Helena, MT

For registration info visit: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/wic/newsletters/2014/documents/N-01-27-14BreastfeedingBFARwithDianaWest-Registration.pdf>

(With an evening presentation the day before: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/wic/newsletters/2014/documents/N-01-27-14SweetSleepwithDianaWest-Flyer.pdf>)

National Indian Health Board—5th Annual National Tribal Public Health Summit

March 31—April 2, 2014

Billings, MT

http://www.nihb.org/communications/phs_2014.php

April

ChildWise Institute—Why They Do What They Do: How understanding brain development can lead to greater empathy for children

April 12, 2015

Kalispell, MT

For more information visit: www.childwise.org

Montana DPHHS—Montana Family Planning Training

April 23—24, 2014

Helena, MT

For more information visit: <http://umt.edu/ce/cps/montanafamilyplanningtraining/>

May

TeenWise Minnesota 2014 Annual Conference

May 1—2, 2014

Brooklyn Center, MN

<http://teenwisemn.org/annual-conference/>

ChildWise Institute—The ACE Study Summit

May 29—30, 2014

Billings, MT

For more information visit: www.childwise.org

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